



# Executive Summary

*Greenway Bridge over Smith Creek*

## ***Executive Summary Outline:***

***The 2009 Open Space & Greenway Plan Update***

***Benefits of Open Space and Greenways***

***Public Input***

***Greenways System Recommendations***

***Implementation***

***Additional Resources***

## **THE 2009 OPEN SPACE & GREENWAY PLAN UPDATE**

The Town of Wake Forest adopted its Open Space and Greenway Plan in January 2002. In the years since the plan's adoption, much has changed in Wake Forest and in Wake County as a whole. Aside from continued population growth and development in and around Wake Forest, there have been numerous plans adopted and other changes in both local and regional land use and transportation patterns. This update expands upon key recommendations from the 2002 Plan and provides the Town of Wake Forest with new ideas and tools to effectively create and maintain a comprehensive open space and greenway network. The Plan Update also incorporates new design standards for trails and trail amenities, trail operations and management guidelines, and current trail construction cost estimates.

The goals of this update are as follows:

- 1) Provide specific recommendations for developing new priority greenway segments and facilities. (Chapter 4 Action Steps and Appendices B, C, and D)***
- 2) Explore potential connections that can be derived from linking the greenway plan to the adopted pedestrian, bicycle, and parks and recreation plans. (Chapters 2 and 3)***
- 3) Expand on recent planning efforts for the Smith, Richland, and Sanford Creek corridors by identifying trail locations within their more broadly defined greenway corridors. (Chapter 4 Project Cut-Sheets and Trail Segment Cost-Estimates)***

The goals for this plan are in concert with the goals of other Wake Forest planning initiatives. Supporting statements from the Wake Forest Land Use Management Plan, the Land Development Plan, the Parks and Recreation Plan Update, the Pedestrian Plan and the Bicycle Plan were consolidated and are found on page 1-3.

## BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS

Open space and greenways provide a variety of benefits that ultimately affect the sustainability of economic, environmental, and social health. A summary of these benefits can also be found in the Town of Wake Forest brochure, *The Benefits of Open Space and Greenways*, and are described in full on pages 1-6 to 1-11. These benefits include:

- *Creating Value and Generating Economic Activity*
- *Transportation Benefits*
- *Improving Health through Active Living*
- *Clear Skies, Clean Rivers, and Protected Wildlife*
- *Protecting People and Property from Flood Damage*
- *Enhancing Cultural Awareness and Community Identity*

## PUBLIC INPUT

More than 150 people filled out comment forms (both online and at a public workshop) for this 2009 Plan Update. Public input helped project planners identify where people most often use trails in Wake Forest, their preferences related to the trail system, and their priorities for future trail projects. The responses have been tabulated and are featured in Appendix A.

## GREENWAY SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Wake Forest Open Space and Greenway Plan are broken down into two primary phases for future development. Priority preferences for the Dunn Creek Corridor and Smith Creek Corridor are reflected in both the public input responses (page A-6) and the implementation chapter, which outlines the following corridors as priorities.

Priority Greenway Corridors (2.35 miles of 12 miles complete = 17% complete)						
Cut Sheet #	Greenway Corridor	From	To	Miles	Feet	Development Stage
<i>Dunn Creek Corridor (0.0 miles of 3.05 miles complete)</i>						
1	Dunn Creek	Flaherty Park	Oak Grove Church Road	0.91	4,800	Planning
2	Dunn Creek	Oak Grove Church Road	NC 98 Bypass	1.14	6,000	Planning
3	Dunn Creek	NC 98 Bypass	Smith Creek Soccer Complex	0.92	4,850	Design
			<i>Total</i>	2.96	15,650	
			<i>Percentage Complete</i>	0%		
<i>Smith Creek Corridor (1.15 miles of 2.85 miles complete)</i>						
-	Smith Creek	Reservoir	Smith Creek Soccer Complex	1.50	7,920	Planning
-	Smith Creek	Smith Creek Soccer Complex	Rogers Road	0.63	3,326	Completed
4	Smith Creek	Rogers Road	Sanford Creek	1.00	5,280	Planning
5	Smith Creek	Sanford Creek	Ligon Mill	0.91	4,820	Planning
6	Smith Creek	Ligon Mill	Burlington Mill	0.94	4,950	Planning
-	Smith Creek	Burlington Mill	Neuse River	0.65	3,432	Completed
			<i>Total</i>	5.63	21,808	
			<i>Percentage Complete</i>	29%		
<i>Richland Creek Corridor (0.35 miles of 3.91 miles complete)</i>						
7	Richland Creek	Wake Forest Town Limits	N. End of Olde Mill Stream Gwy	0.87	4,600	Planning
-	Richland Creek	N. End of Olde Mill Stream Gwy	Harris Road	0.35	1,848	Completed
8	Richland Creek	Harris Road	Stadium Drive	0.98	5,200	Planning
9	Richland Creek	Stadium Drive	Bennet Park Neighborhood	1.17	6,175	Planning
10	Richland Creek	Bennet Park Neighborhood	Villas at Caveness Farms	1.10	5,800	Planning
			<i>Total</i>	4.47	23,623	
			<i>Percentage Complete</i>	8%		
<i>Sanford Creek Corridor (0.85 miles of 1.5 miles complete)</i>						
11	Sanford Creek	Smith Creek Greenway	Marshall Farm Road	1.16	6,100	Planning
-	Sanford Creek	Marshall Farm Road	W. End of Sanford Creek Gwy	0.85	4,488	Completed
-	Sanford Creek	W. End of Sanford Creek Gwy	Rogers Road	0.50	2,640	Construction
			<i>Total</i>	2.51	13,228	
			<i>Percentage Complete</i>	33%		

*This table lists priority greenway corridors, broken down into segments. The 'cut-sheet' number for each segment also corresponds to the following map.*

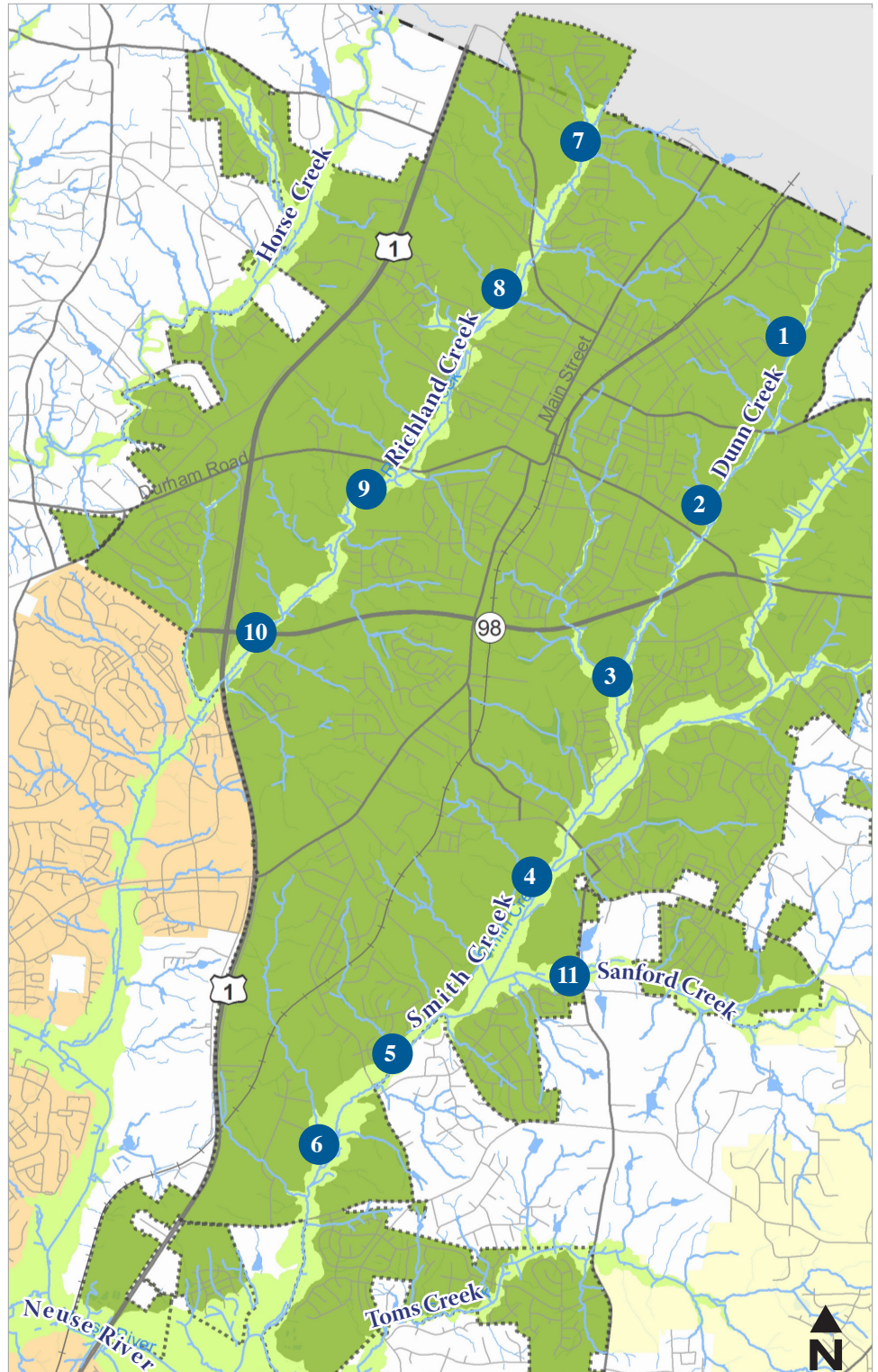


## IMPLEMENTATION

The action steps in Chapter Four are integral to achieving the goals and vision of this Plan. As guiding recommendations and the clearest representation of specific items to accomplish, they should be referred to often. Chapter Four also provides project cut-sheets for 11 of the priority segments, which feature detailed cost estimates and corresponding maps.

The map below shows the locations of the key projects (note that the numbers correspond to the cut-sheets and do not necessarily indicate order of priority).

*Locator Key for  
Project Cut-Sheets on pages  
4-8 to 4-29*



### PHASE 1: SMITH CREEK AND DUNN CREEK CORRIDORS

Smith Creek and Dunn Creek are key north/south corridors that connect Wake Forest with the Neuse River. Within only four years, the Smith Creek Corridor will connect to the Neuse River Trail (NRT) and the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST). It will be beneficial for Wake Forest to tie into this trail for recreation, transportation and economic benefits. *See Smith Creek Corridor Project Cut-Sheets and Cost Estimates, pages 4-8 to 4-19.*

### PHASE 2: RICHLAND CREEK CORRIDOR, SANFORD CREEK CORRIDOR, and the NC 98 BYPASS CORRIDOR

The greenway trails to be constructed along the Richland Creek corridor will enhance connectivity by providing access to the parks, schools, and neighborhoods along the corridor. *See Richland Creek Corridor Project Cut-Sheets and Cost Estimates, pages 4-20 to 4-27.*

The Sanford Creek corridor offers an incredible opportunity to build a trail that connects hundreds of students to Heritage High School, Middle School and Elementary School with a relatively small amount of trail. This trail will also require continued cooperation and coordination with the Town of Rolesville and Wake County. *See Sanford Creek Corridor Project Cut-Sheets and Cost Estimates, pages 4-28 to 4-29.*

The Town of Wake Forest Pedestrian Plan lists the NC 98 Bypass Corridor as the top priority greenway corridor. Though slightly different, this recommendation is supported by the 2002 Open Space and Greenway Plan, which stresses the importance of creating an east/west connection for economic and transportation objectives. The detailed bicycle and pedestrian recommendations contained in the *NC 98 Bypass Corridor Master Plan (page 3-7)* should be incorporated into the Phase Two recommendations of this plan to facilitate the planning process and ensure efficiency in the development of an east/west trail.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Appendix A: Public Input Summary:** Responses from public comment forms indicate support for local funding of trails. Even though this was not a statistically valid survey, the strong show of support warrants serious consideration of a bond fund, with 85% responding favorably to the idea of a bond fund to complete key recommendations of this plan.

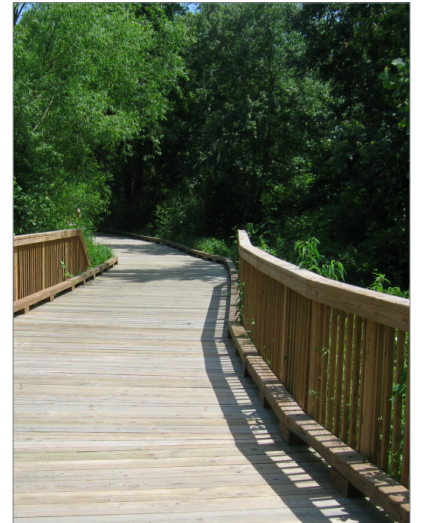
**Appendix B: Design Guidelines:** This appendix provides standards for both public and private entities during implementation of the Wake Forest Open Space & Greenway Plan. The guidelines noted are based on the best practices in use throughout the United States, as well as accepted national standards for greenway facilities.

**Appendix C: Funding:** For the past two decades, a variety of funding has been used throughout North Carolina to support the planning, design and construction of urban and rural greenway projects. This appendix describes possible funding sources to support local greenway improvements. In addition to outside sources, implementing the recommendations of this plan will require a strong level of local support and commitment through a variety of local funding mechanisms.

**Appendix D: Operations and Management:** The Wake Forest greenway and trail system should be viewed and maintained as a public resource. Indeed it will become infrastructure similar to the street system or utility networks, serving the community for generations to come. This appendix provides guiding principles that will help assure the preservation of a first class trail system.



*Above: Field evaluation of the Dunn Creek Corridor.*



*Above: Boardwalk portion of the Sanford Creek Greenway.*